

A NEW SHREW FROM PONDOLAND.

By E. C. CHUBB, F.Z.S., Acting Curator, Rhodesia Museum.

While engaged in working out the collection of South African shrews belonging to the Transvaal Museum, I find among them two examples of a very distinct new species of *Myosorex*. In honour of the collector, Mr. H. H. Swinny, it may be known as

MYOSOREX SWINNYI, n. sp.

A very dark-coloured species with a comparatively large skull. General colour of upper surface very dark brown, almost black; underside a little lighter. Hairs on back about 6 mm. long, dark slate-grey for about four-fifths of their length, followed by a ring of black, and tipped with brown, this latter giving a fine grizzled appearance to the general colour of the back. Upper sides of hands and feet black; claws light-coloured. Tail, above and below, black, with very short hairs and scarcely any tuft at tip. Skull in general characters similar to that in other members of the genus, except that the palate is lengthened anteriorly, with the result that the tooth-row measures more than in any of the other species. Main cusp of I^1 scarcely exceeding I^2 in downward projection.

Dimensions of the co-types (measured in the flesh), two females: Head and body, 74, 81 mm.; tail 45, 48; hindfoot, 15, 13; ear, 11, 9. Skulls: Back of condyle to front face of I^1 , 23.5, 24; basal length, 21, 21.5; greatest breadth across brain-case, 11.2, 11.4; length of upper tooth series, 11.7, 11.7.

Habitat: Port St. John's District, Western Pondoland. Alt. 200 feet.

Co-types: Two females. Collector's numbers: 172, 173.

Collected 21st and 15th April, 1908, respectively, by Mr. H. H. Swinny.

Type is in the Transvaal Museum.